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From: CN=Sandra Stavnes/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US
Sent: Fri 7/27/2012 9:42:17 PM
Subject: Re: quick review if possible-- Regional Survey on EPA/ATSDR Relationship
[Region 8 Survey on EPA-ATSDR.docx](#)

Lori

Region 8's comments.

Thanks.
Sandy

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Date: 07/26/2012 03:33 PM

Subject: quick review if possible-- Regional Survey on EPA/ATSDR Relationship

All- sorry I did not get to this sooner, I do not think we need to spend a lot of time on this,,, but please read the brief survey below and see my brief responses in bold. Please send any comments back, you can insert them in another color and I can put them together. Most of my comments are from the remedial perspective, so additions from the Brownfields and removal perspectives would be helpful as well.

This is due Friday, but I will let her know we will get it to her COB Monday... so any comments you have by Monday NOON PST would be great. Thank you.

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From: Chloe Metz/R2/USEPA/US

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Date: 07/06/2012 01:54 PM

Subject: Due to Lisa Price COB 7/27: Regional Survey on EPA/ATSDR Relationship

Division Directors,

ATSDR and EPA management will be holding a joint meeting in Potomac Yards on September 11, 2012. The purpose of this meeting will be for managers, at the Division Director level, from EPA Headquarters, ATSDR and the Superfund lead region (Region 6 will be participating) to focus on national-level issues of interest to both agencies. An agenda will be circulated when it is available.

To prepare for this meeting, we are again surveying the regions on their relationship with ATSDR. The results from last year's survey are attached. In an effort to build off of the information collected last year, we are seeking answers to the questions below. In your response, please be specific about whether you are referring to your relationship with ATSDR in the context of remedial, removal or Brownfields programs. On this email, I've also included the individuals who have been identified as the regional points of contact on ATSDR-related issues, so that you can coordinate with them.

1. Are there specific needs that you have where ATSDR could be of assistance (e.g., health messaging, support on specific chemicals, etc.)?

We believe that ASTDR could be helpful to us in providing information on emerging contaminants, and coordinating health messages to citizens near cleanup sites. ATSDRs relationship with the local health departments is unique and can be beneficial to our communications, although we have had some issues with turnaround and timeliness of this assistance.

2. Have you implemented any of the recommendations that resulted from last year's survey (see below)? If so, has your relationship with ATSDR improved as a result?

- Engage in regular work planning & cross-attendance at each other's meetings - not often
- Early, as well as post-remedy, involvement is key and should happen more often – e.g., scoping the work plan and development of sampling strategies, five-year reviews -ATSDR seems involved in the earlier stages of projects and not as much in five year reviews
- Allow for more review time, while balancing public perception of ATSDR-EPA relationship-
- Hold joint public meetings-at some sites
- Have decision-makers at meetings to address community concerns when they arise -when needed
- Communicate limitations early and often and time frames for completion of work- could improve
- Consider training or orientation for non-Superfund programs that do not work with ATSDR on a regular basis (e.g., Brownfields, RCRA, Air, Water)- have not done this
- Work on environmental justice approaches together-at some sites

3. Do you have in place a formal coordination mechanism with ATSDR (e.g., regular meetings/calls) or is your interaction on an ad hoc basis? If you have a formal mechanism, please describe it.

Monthly "new sites" meetings are held with our site assessment and removal program, all four states, and ASTDR. This has been beneficial to all parties in sharing information about new sites and site status. In addition, the Associate Director meets with the regional office lead for ATSDR to share information about each agency's upcoming work throughout the region, although this is not regular due to competing workload demands. ATSDR and the state health agencies is invited and has participated in our annual meetings with all the state hazardous waste directors; this has been beneficial in developing relationships and sharing site updates as well as site challenges. Lastly, the EPA and ATSDR have hosted meetings to bring together staff of the environmental and health agencies, again, these meetings have been successful in building relationships and sharing information.

4. Were you aware that ATSDR recently underwent a reorganization that will result in additional FTE in the regional offices?yes In some regions, the additional FTE are already on board. Has this resulted in any changes in your relationship with ATSDR? Yes, we are hoping this resource will provide additional outreach to EJ communities, particularly at one non-NPL site.

5. Finally, please describe the greatest benefit you see from working with ATSDR.
Can be additional voice re health messaging in communities.

Please provide your responses to Lisa Price by COB Friday, July 27.

Many thanks!
Chloe

[attachment "Regional Perspectives_EPA & ATSDR.v3.docx" deleted by Lori Cohen/R10/USEPA/US]

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